

### REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment introduces new claim 24 in the pending application. Original claims 1 through 23 remain pending in the application. After entry of the foregoing amendment, claims (4 independent, 24 total) remain pending in the application. No new subject matter has been added. The application remains in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any of the changes in greater detail, to propose any changes, or if doing so would in any way expedite allowance of the present application. Finally, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee specifically relating to this preliminary amendment, or any deficiency in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, and which may be required under 37 CFR § 1.16(b), or credit any overpayment to Account No. 20322.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/25/04

By: R. Lee Fraley

R. Lee Fraley  
Reg. No. 42,550  
SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.  
One Arizona Center  
400 East Van Buren  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2202  
Phone: (602) 382-6250  
Fax: (602) 382-6070